

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication apparatus for voice and data communication, comprising:
a first port to connect said apparatus to a circuit switched telecommunication network;
a second port to connect said apparatus to a packet based telecommunication network;
means in said apparatus for a local user ~~for allowing an end user~~ to initiate and receive ~~voice and data~~ calls with other parties via the circuit switched network or the packet based network; and

single channel gateway means for establishing a path between said first port and said second port inside said apparatus in response to a request from a server on the packet based telecommunication network acting on behalf of a remote caller,

whereby the telecommunication apparatus can serve as part of a distributed gateway system between said packet based telecommunication network and said circuit switched telecommunication network for said remote caller.

2. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a third port to connect a conventional telephone apparatus via said telecommunication apparatus to said first port.

3. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a mechanism to automatically connect said third port directly to said first port in the event of power failure.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for telecommunication utilizing both a circuit switched telecommunication network and a packet based telecommunication network, comprising:

multiple telecommunication apparatuses for voice and data communication, each of said

telecommunication apparatuses having

a first port connected to said circuit switched telecommunication network;

a second port connected to said packet based telecommunication network;

means in said apparatus for a local user ~~for allowing an end user~~ to initiate and receive ~~voice and data calls~~ with other parties via the circuit switched network or the packet based network; and

single channel gateway means for establishing a path between said first port and said second port inside said telecommunication apparatus in response to a request from a server on the packet based telecommunication network acting on behalf of a remote caller,

whereby said telecommunication apparatuses can serve as a distributed gateway system between said packet based telecommunication system and said circuit switched telecommunication system ~~and said packet based telecommunication system~~ for said remote caller.

5. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication according to claim 4, further comprising:

gateway location servers connected to said packet based telecommunication network, said gateway location servers being adapted to receive a request from a first telecommunication apparatus connected to said packet based telecommunication network for telecommunication with a specified telephone apparatus on said circuit switched telecommunication network, and further being programmed to select a second of said telecommunication apparatuses to serve as a gateway between said networks for said requested connection, and to forward said request to said second telecommunication apparatus via said packet based telecommunication network.

6. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication according to claim 4, wherein the packet based telecommunication network comprises the Internet.

7. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication according to claim 5, wherein the packet based telecommunication network comprises the Internet.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for telecommunication utilizing both a circuit switched telecommunication network and a packet based telecommunication network, comprising:

multiple telecommunication apparatuses for voice and data communication, each of said

telecommunication apparatuses having

a first port connected to said circuit switched telecommunication network;

a second port connected to said packet based telecommunication network;

means in said apparatus for a local user ~~for allowing an end user~~ to initiate and receive ~~voice and data~~ calls with other parties via the circuit switched network or the packet based network;

single channel gateway means for establishing a path between said first and said second port inside said telecommunication apparatus in response to a request from the packet based telecommunication network; and

gateway location servers connected to said packet based telecommunication network, said gateway location servers being adapted to receive a request from a calling apparatus connected to said packet based telecommunication network for telecommunication with a specified telephone apparatus on said circuit switched telecommunication network, and further being programmed to select one of said telecommunication apparatuses to serve as a gateway between said networks for said requested connection, and to forward said request to said one selected telecommunication apparatus via said packet based telecommunication network, whereby said telecommunication apparatuses can serve as part of a distributed gateway system between said circuit switched telecommunication network and said packet based telecommunication network.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication according to claim 8, wherein each of said telecommunication apparatuses includes means for registering with said gateway location servers the availability of said apparatus to act as a gateway between said packet based network and said circuit switched network.

10. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication according to claim 9, wherein each of said registered telecommunication apparatuses includes means for automatically notifying said gateway location servers when its PSTN connection is Off Hook so it temporarily is not available to serve as a gateway between the packet based network and the circuit switched network.

11. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for registering at said server the availability of said apparatus to act as a gateway

between said first port and said second port.

12. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for registering at said server the availability of said apparatus to act as a gateway between said first port and said second port.

13. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication apparatus for initiating and receiving voice and data calls, comprising:

a first port to connect said apparatus to a circuit switched telecommunications network;

a second port to connect said apparatus to a packet based telecommunication network;

and

gateway means for establishing a path between said first port and said second port inside said apparatus in response to a request from a server on the packet based telecommunication network acting on behalf of a caller; and

means for registering at said server the availability of said apparatus to act as a gateway between said first port and said second port.